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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1951

ROYSTON (Yorks) URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE - 1951

Councillor G. H. Cooke (Chairman)
Councillor H. Griffiths (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor R. Crawshaw, J.P. (Chairman of the Council)
Councillor L. W. Jackson
Councillor Mrs. J. A. Westwood
Councillor J. Berry, C.C.
Councillor G. Shone
Councillor T. Dyer
Councillor T. Paling

Staff of the Public Health Department:

Medical Officer of Health:


J. R. Murdock, (Mod.) B.A., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

George Edward Millar, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., M.Inst.M.
Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Pupil Sanitary Inspectors (Full-time)

Alan Foster—Resigned, January, 1951
Wilfred Murray—Resigned May, 1951.



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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Royston Urban District Council.

Madame Chairman and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit the Annual Report on the Health Services of the Royston Urban District for the year 1951.

The health of the residents in Royston was well maintained during the year as is shown by the statistics.

The Birth Rate showed the nation-wide slight downward trend. The Infant Mortality Rate was 26.1 compared with 48 last year. This is very gratifying as the Infant Mortality is usually taken as being a good index of the social state of the Community. Owing, however, to the smallness of the numbers involved (4), it is not statistically lower than the figures for the West Riding Administrative County (31.8). The Still Birth Rate was only 6 per 1,000 total births, a very satisfactory result which would appear to be significantly lower than the nation-wide rate.

Apart from an outbreak of measles there was no major epidemic. It is noted elsewhere that this outbreak had its peak when the schools were closed, an interesting sidelight on school closure (in an Urban Area) in the control of this disease.

Statistics and Social Condition of the Area

Area in Acres	1,452
Population	8,081
No. of inhabited houses	2,315
Rateable Value	£28,336
Product of a penny rate	£103

WATER SUPPLY

Source of Supply

The Township continues to receive water in bulk from the Corporation of Barnsley, via the Council's service reservoir at Carlton. A sufficient supply to the reservoir has been maintained, and, it was not necessary to issue economy warnings during the year.

Consumption for the year 51,867,000 gallons.

Consumption per head per day 17.45 gallons.

No restriction on consumption was imposed during the year.

Principle Vital Statistics for the Year 1951

	Royston Urban District	Ag. West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admins. County	England and Wales (Prov.Fig)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	19.0	15.6	15.8	15.5
DEATH RATE (all causes)				
All per 1,000 estimated population	11.0	13.5	12.7	12.5
Infective and Parasitic Diseases excluding Tuberculosis	—	0.11	0.10	X
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.25	0.24	0.24	0.28
Tuberculosis, other forms	0.12	0.04	0.04	0.04
Cancer	1.61	1.89	1.80	1.96
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	1.24	1.86	1.72	X
Heart and Circulatory	4.70	5.10	4.72	X
Respiratory Diseases	1.48	1.90	1.81	X
MATERNAL MORTALITY (per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	—	0.81	0.93	0.79
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 Live Births)	26.0	30.8	31.8	29.6
STILL BIRTHS (rate per 1,000 Births)	6	26	26	23

X Figures not available

DEATHS

The following Table shows the causes of Death and is amended for inward and outward transfers :—

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	1	9
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	7	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	2	0	0
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease	16	15	31
Other Circulatory Disease	2	1	3
Influenza	3	0	3
Pneumonia	0	3	3
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	0	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	0	3
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2	4
Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
All other accidents	1	0	1
Suicide	1	0	1
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
Totals	50	39	89

BIRTHS

During 1951, 81 male and 73 female births, making a total of 154 births were registered. There were 2 illegitimate births. In 1950 a total of 166 births were registered. 59% mothers were confined in maternity hospital.

STILL BIRTHS

One male still birth due to toxæmia of pregnancy was notified as compared with a total of 3 still births in 1950.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births)

During 1951 a total of 4 deaths of infants under 1 year occurred consisting of 1 male and 3 female children. The Infantile Mortality Rate was 26 per 1,000 registered live births compared with a Mortality Rate of 48 per 1,000 in 1950.

Causes of Death :—

Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Broncho Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Cerebral Hemorrhage	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

PREMATURE BIRTHS

There were 5 Premature Births notified during the year; one was born at home and 4 in Hospital.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis during 1951 :—

Scarlet Fever

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and both were treated in hospital. There were 6 cases in 1950 and 10 in 1949.

Diphtheria

One case of Diphtheria occurred in a man aged 22 years who was treated in hospital. The last previous case was one reported in 1948.

Pneumonia

As in 1950, there were again 4 cases of Pneumonia. These were all treated at home.

Whooping Cough

36 cases of Whooping Cough were reported comparing with 43 cases in 1950. One case was admitted to hospital, and there were no deaths.

Measles

During 1951 the incidence of Measles was markedly greater than 1950, there being 218 cases compared with 62 cases. In 1948 however there were 242 cases. None was admitted to hospital during the year. It is interesting to note that the peak of prevalence of this disease occurred during August when the schools were closed. In 1948 when there were 242 cases there was a definite epidemic during March.

Erysipelas

Two females aged 46 and 55 respectively were reported to be suffering from this disease. Both were treated at home. There were no cases during 1950 and one in 1949.

Epidemiology

Notifiable Disease other than Tuberculosis	Number notified	Number admitted to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	2	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	36	1	—
Measles	218	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—

The following table gives the age distribution of cases of Infectious Diseases notified in 1951 :—

Notifiable Disease	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	2	—	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	6	24	6	—	—	—	—
Measles	9	122	86	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	2	—

Tuberculosis

Staff :— Mrs. Cartledge—Tuberculosis Health Visitor

1. Cases on Register at 1st January, 1951 :—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
Males	Females	Males	Females	
19	9	2	4	34

2. No. of new notifications received during the year :—

Pulmonary	6		
Non-pulmonary	4	Total	10

There was a decrease in cases of pulmonary disease notified and an increase in other forms of the disease. In 1950 the figures were as follows :—

Pulmonary	10		
Non-pulmonary	1	Total	11

3. No. of cases removed from the Register during 1951 :—

	Cured	Died	Left district	Non-tuberculous	Totals
Pulmonary	1	—	—	—	1
Non-pulmonary	—	1	1	1	3
				Total	4

The number of deaths dropped, there being only 1 during 1951, compared with 5 in 1950, 3 in 1949, 4 in 1948 and 4 in 1947.

4. No. of cases admitted to Sanatorium during 1951 :— 4

Two Non-pulmonary cases were treated in hospitals. Both were admitted first to Kendray Isolation Hospital and one was transferred to Sheffield Children's Hospital.

5. No. of cases on register at 31st December, 1951 :—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
Males	Females	Males	Females	
22	11	3	4	40

6. Distribution of notifications :—

	Age groups						65 and over
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	
Males	—	3	2	1	—	—	—
Females	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
Total	—	3	4	2	1	—	—

7. Occupations of notified cases :—

Scholars	3 cases
Student	1 case
Housewives	2 cases
Miner	1 case
R.N. Sick Bay Attendant	1 case
Factory workers	2 cases

8. Tuberculosis Care and after-care scheme.

(a) Provision of extra nourishment.

6 patients received 2 pints of milk daily under the County Council's Care and After-Care Scheme.

(b) Loan of equipment.

2 patients were loaned bedding and equipment under the County Council Scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria Immunisation in relation to Child Population

Number of children who at 31st December, 1951, had completed a full course of immunisation at any time before that date

Age at 31/12/51 i.e. born in year	Under 15				
	Under 1 1951	1 1950	2 1949	3 1948	4 1947
Number immunised	5	84	147	90	101
Estimated mid-year child population as given by the Registrar General			723		
% children who have been immunised			59.1		
				1235	
				407	
				1942-46	
				10-14 1937-41	
					Total under 15
					1282
					1958
					65.5

HOSPITAL FACILITIES

Isolation

Patients are admitted to Kendray Isolation Hospital.

General

The Beckett and St. Helen Hospitals, Barnsley; the Jessop Hospital, Royal Hospital and Royal Infirmary, Sheffield; and the County General, Wakefield, supply the needs of the area.

Maternity

Patients are admitted in the main to the Maternity Wing of St. Helen Hospital, and a small number to Pindar Oaks Maternity Home, Barnsley.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The area is served by the Public Health Laboratory, County Medical Offices, Wood Street, Wakefield.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Staff: Domiciliary Midwives—Nurses Ward and Maclean.
Health Visitor: Miss K. Power.

Child Welfare Centres

Wesleyan Sunday School	Day and times of sessions	No. of children who attended during the year	Total attendances
High Street, Royston	Wednesday 10-12 a.m. 2-4 p.m.	392	under 1 year 3,005 over 1 year 1,996

An official from the Food Office attends the Royston Child Welfare Centre for the distribution of Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil, etc. As you are aware, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil are available through the Food Office sources for all expectant mothers, and for children until they attain 5 years. The Cod Liver Oil is a free issue but a nominal charge is made for the Orange Juice.

It is apparent that only some quarter of those entitled are availing themselves of the issue of Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil—a very regrettable fact, as these substances, being rich sources of vitamins C, A and D, are of proved value in ensuring healthy babies and youngsters.

Without an adequate intake of these vitamins, we are likely again to see as in the past, many cases of scurvy (one of the chief manifestations of which is bleeding of the gums), and bandy legs etc., due to rickets.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Wesleyan Sunday School, High Street, Royston	Day and time of sessions Tuesday	No. of women who attended during the year	Total number of attendances made by women during the year
Dr. Tapissier	2-4 p.m.	96	341

Post Natal attendances during the year—15

HOME NURSING

Staff: Nurse E. A. Walker. Relief: Mrs. K. M. Ward

The total number of new cases undertaken in 1951 for the area was 117.

The total number of visits made to patients during the year was 3,476.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Routine School Medical Inspections were carried out at the following schools by Dr. S. G. A. Henriques.

- Royston Modern Boys' School.
- Royston Modern Girls' School.
- Royston C.E. J.M. and I. School
- Royston Junior Girls' School.
- Royston County Infants' School.

Summary of defects found at the above inspections:—

School visited	No. of children examined	Ocular	E.N.T.	Defects found Heart	Lungs	Orthopaedic	Others	No. passed on for treatment
Royston Modern Boys	73	30	1	1	2	2	3	27
Royston Modern Girls	68	36	2	—	—	1	13	38
Royston C.E. J.M. and I.	42	5	10	—	—	—	4	4
Royston J.G. School	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Royston County Infants	57	3	6	1	3	1	7	12
Totals	247	77	19	2	5	4	27	84

SCHOOL CLINICS

Wesleyan Sunday School, High Street, Royston.	Each Friday in the school year	No. of individual attendances	Total number of attendances
Dr. J. R. Murdock	12 noon	79	215
Miss K. Power	10 a.m. to		

SPECIALIST CLINICS

1. Ophthalmic Clinics

(Dr. J. V. Kirkwood, County Occulist)

No. of children examined in 1951	.....	.....	72
No. for whom glasses were ordered	.....	.....	27

2. Orthopaedic Clinics

Mr. C. Lee Pattison, F.R.C.S. Orthopaedic Surgeon until 31:5:51.

Mr. T. L. Lawson, F.R.C.S., Orthopaedic Surgeon from 10:7:51.

Nurse M. A. Fellows, Orthopaedic Nurse, resigned 14:5:51.

No. of children examined	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Total attendances	.....	.....	.....	.....	9

3. Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics

(Mr. W. L. Rowe, F.R.C.S., E.N.T. Surgeon).

No. of children referred for operative treatment to tonsils and adenoids	.....	.....	4
No. of children who received operative treatment	.....	.....	2
No. of children who received other treatment	.....	.....	14

4. Paediatric Clinics

(Dr. C. C. Harvey, M.D., M.R.C.P., Paediatrician).

No. of individual children examined	.....	.....	12
Total attendances	.....	.....	14

5. Child Guidance Clinics

(Dr. M. M. MacTaggart, M.A., B.Ed., Ph.D., Educational Psychologist).

Dr. MacTaggart took up full time duty with the West Riding County Council on 1st May, 1951.

No. of children examined	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Total attendances	.....	.....	.....	.....	97

6. Speech Therapy Clinic

(Miss C. M. Seeley, L.C.S.T., Speech Therapist).

A Speech Therapy Clinic was started on 1st October, 1951. One session weekly is held for cases from Cudworth and Darton Arcas besides Royston. 6 children from Royston attended the clinic during the year.

Return of Milk and Meals supplied on a typical day in 1951 Figures supplied by the Divisional Education Officer

School	No. of pupils	Milk		Dinners	
		$\frac{1}{2}$ pint	$\frac{3}{4}$ pint	Free	Paid
Royston Modern Boys	276	168	—	21	101
Royston Modern Girls	299	144	—	31	121
Royston C. of E. J.M. and I.	208	164	2	12	69
Royston Council J.B.	225	168	—	16	57
Royston Council J.G.	209	170	8	26	73
Royston Council Infants	324	246	3	14	88
Totals	1541	1060	13	120	509

From the above figures, it will be noticed that all the pupils at school are not availing themselves of the free issue of Milk. This is particularly noticeable amongst the older pupils; only some 50% of the older boys actually taking their $\frac{1}{3}$ rd pint of school milk daily. This is to be regretted, as milk being a balanced food, forms a valuable addition to the diet, especially when protein is so severely rationed.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The number of cases attended by Home Helps during the year was as follows:—

		Percentage of total hours
(a) Illness	3	13.5
(b) Expectant Mothers	—	1.0
(c) Lying-in period	10	13.5
(d) Mental Defects	—	1.0
(e) Aged	12	71.1
(f) Child not over compulsory school age	—	0.01

This service continues to be in great demand. It is, however, an extremely difficult service to administer, as, being a very costly one, it is, of necessity, limited, and the facilities available have to be shared amongst the cases on their relative merits.

As in the past, it will be noted that the aged made the greatest demand (71% of the total hours). This is one of the most difficult features from an administrative point of view as most aged cases are long term ones and some of these cases have been on the books since the inception of the service in 1948.

The actual number of cases given above relates to the area of the Urban District, but the percentage of the hours is based on the Divisional Area.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

All Inspectors of Weights and Measures of the West Riding County Council are appointed Sampling Officers for the purpose of the above Act. The Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures has kindly given the following particulars of samples taken in the Royston Urban District for analysis in the past 4 years:—

	1948	1949	1950	1951
Milk—Genuine	8	15	8	8
Adulterated	—	—	—	1
Other Foods—Genuine	10	5	10	10
Adulterated	1	—	2	2
Drugs—Genuine	3	5	2	1
Adulterated	1	—	—	—

CONCLUSION

It gives me pleasure to express my appreciation of the help and courtesy I have received from the Chairman and members of the Council during the year. To all the Officers of the Council I offer my thanks for their co-operation. Finally, I am happy to record the loyalty and enthusiasm of all members of the Divisional Staff.

I am, Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. MURDOCK,

Medical Officer of Health.

ROYSTON (Yorks) URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Royston Urban District Council

Madame Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my sixth Annual Report showing the work done in the Sanitary Section of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1951.

As on previous occasions, that portion of the Report dealing with the Public Cleansing Service and Salvage refers to the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1952.

The continuing shortages of various building materials coupled with continuing scarcity of building labour was reflected in the limited amount of work which could be carried out to existing property, but in spite of these handicaps, a by no means inconsiderable amount of work to such properties was executed. The amount of work requiring to be done at such properties continues to grow and it becomes ever more apparent how the fabric of these houses suffered from the time during the National Emergency when works of maintenance and repair were well nigh impossible. These arrears of work can only increase as deterioration of fabric, unless held in check, becomes fairly rapid in Districts such as this where there is pollution of the atmosphere from by-product plants, burning colliery spoil banks and the domestic chimney. To recondition existing properties effectively will take a considerable time, and with greatly increased cost of such work, to bring these houses back to, and to maintain them at even a reasonable standard of fitness, can only be done by the expenditure of very considerable amounts of money.

Verminous Houses

This matter continues to receive considerable attention.

The following properties were dealt with during the year :—

Type of House	Infested	Treated
Council Houses	4	4
Other Houses	21	21

As in previous years, houses found to be infested were treated according to the type and degree of infestation. Bed bug infestations continue to be treated by spraying with liquid insecticide containing either D.D.T. or Gammexane whilst cockroach, cricket and ant infestations were treated either with powder (Gammexane Dust) and/or spraying according to the extent and persistence of infestation.

It is with regret that I have to report that the Council's Refuse Tip again proved to have a considerable infestation by crickets despite the extensive treatments given to it in previous years. Although the numbers of crickets present in the working faces of the Tip could only be classified as considerable, the infestation was by no means as severe as had been the case in previous years. Regular treatment of the working faces and under the plates on top of the Tip with Gammexane Dust was again carried out with results which were gratifying but complete clearance of the infestation could not be expected. This problem continues to be one of increasing difficulty owing to the ever increasing quantity of material being placed in dustbins which encourage the breeding of these pests. Despite the publicity given to this matter in previous Reports, the quantities of garden refuse, hedge clippings and other putrescible matter being put into dustbins continued to increase. It was noticeable that the heat in the Tip was raised considerably during the year, due, in my opinion, to the presence in the Tip of the material referred to, but no case of fire occurred. This increase of heat together with the ample supplies of food provided can only result in increasing the degree of infestation. Furthermore, the gross nature of the refuse being collected continues to provide ample cover amongst which the insects continue to live, feed and breed. Regular treatment with insecticidal powder tends to keep the infestation within bounds but the gross character of the refuse allows cover for the insects and prevents penetration by the powder and automatically results in maximum results not being obtained. During the year, surplus soil, etc., resulting from the making up of Rowland Street was used for dressing the faces of the Tip and this resulted in a very considerable reduction of infestation in those parts of the Tip. The lack of adequate supplies of suitable covering material for the Tip is certainly a contributory factor to the continuing infestation, but as supplies of such material become available, covering of the Tip will continue.

As in previous years, the closest co-operation was maintained with the Housing Department and where there was any suspicion that Council houses might be verminous, necessary inspections were made and appropriate action taken. The B.I.S.F. Houses

(Permanent Pre-fabricated) which were previously found to be verminous were kept under observation, and it is pleasing to be able to report that no evidence of re-infestation was found during the year under review. Two traditional type houses on the Pinfold Housing Scheme were found to have slight infestations of bed bugs. One case responded to treatment immediately and no evidence of re-infestation occurred. In the other case, sporadic evidence of infestation was found and at the end of the year, it appeared to have been completely cleared. In no instance was it found necessary to treat houses with Hydrogen Cyanide by the Council's Contractors.' Full co-operation was received from all tenants concerned.

Owners of private properties suspected of being verminous continued during the year under review to seek the advice of my Department.

Taken as a whole, householders become ever more ready to seek advice and assistance and on several occasions insects were brought for classification. Even now, it is very apparent that prejudice is not easily broken down, householders are diffident of seeking advice and assistance and continue to use various insecticides without obtaining any real satisfaction. It is also apparent that in the minds of some people, a visit by the Sanitary Inspector continues to be regarded as evidence of verminous infestation of the houses visited, and it would be most interesting to know why such an association of ideas should become so firmly established.

The practice of issuing small quantities of powder to tenants of infested houses was continued throughout the year and this practice appears to be greatly appreciated. Judging by the smaller number of complaints received during the year, it would appear that beneficial results are now becoming apparent, and the once widespread cockroach infestation throughout the District is being brought very much more under control. This gives some cause for satisfaction and tenants are realising that persistent use of recognised insecticides is necessary to derive lasting benefit.

TRANSFER OF TENANTS TO COUNCIL HOUSES

The system of previous years whereby the houses and effects of families selected as tenants for Council Houses, both new and existing, were inspected for the presence of vermin prior to their removal to Council Houses again continued to operate.

During the year, 14 houses were inspected in accordance with the Council's instructions. It is very pleasing to be able to report that in no instance was it necessary to have the furniture

and effects of the selected tenants treated by the Council's Contractors. In only one instance was there evidence of possible infestation. The effects of the tenant concerned were sprayed, but the suspected infestation did not prove to be a live infestation.

Tenants transferred to Council Houses during previous years who had been found to be verminous were kept under observation during the year under review, but in no case was evidence of infestation apparent.

It is of interest to be able to report that requests were received during the year from the Hemsworth Rural District Council and the Wakefield Rural District Council to know whether there was any evidence of verminous infestation in houses occupied by persons to whom those Councils had allocated houses. It is pleasing to be able to report that in no such case was evidence of vermin found.

Although in the majority of cases families selected as tenants for Council Owned Houses take pride in keeping their new houses clean, it is most disappointing to have to report that there are instances where more care could be exercised and new houses maintained in better condition.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

(a) Water Supply

No samples of water (other than those obtained by the Barnsley Corporation) were obtained during the year either for chemical or bacteriological examination.

(b) Closet Accommodation

Particulars of the various types of sanitary conveniences in the District at the end of 1951 are as follows:—

Type	No.
Water Closets	2387
Privies	53
Chemical Closets	3

During the year seven additional closets were provided for existing properties.

The eight privies serving the houses 7 to 21 Victoria Road, Royston, were converted, at the owner's expense, to the water carriage system of drainage.

The remaining privies in the District do not lend themselves to conversion owing to the inaccessibility of sewers, and until such time as sewerage is provided, in most instances, conversion is not practicable.

During the year, inspections revealed the fact that the sanitary accommodation at the Ring o' Bells Inn and the Alexandria Working Men's Club was unsatisfactory. Informal approach was made in each instance and there is every hope that improvements will be made at both sets of premises should necessary licences be able to be obtained from the Ministry of Works.

Approach was made to the Council during the year by the occupiers of houses in Lee Lane, where sewerage is not available and drainage is to cesspools, for the Council to undertake responsibility for the cleansing of these cesspools. So far as I have been able to ascertain, when plans for the houses in question were approved, it was a condition of approval that the occupiers would be responsible for the cleansing of the cesspools and arrangements were made by the occupiers with the Wakefield Rural District Council for the work to be done. Owing to the considerable increase in cost of this work, application was made to the Council to accept this responsibility but after full consideration, the Council decided that they could not accept such responsibility, at least for the present.

(c) **Public Cleansing Service**

The following report on the Public Cleansing Service is for the Financial Year ended March, 1952.

Details of the various types of refuse receptacles in use in the District at the end of the year were as shown below :—

Dustbins	.....	.....	.....	2187
Dry Ashpits	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Privy Middens	.....	.....	.....	36
Chemical Closets	.....	.....	.....	3

Eight privies with four privy middens were converted during the year, galvanised iron dustbins being provided for the reception of domestic refuse. The cleansing of privies, which had been carried out by a local farmer, was undertaken by the Public Cleansing Staff as notice was received that the farmer in question could no longer undertake the work. Privies are cleansed monthly, overtime being worked by the Cleansing Staff on this work in order that the regular weekly cleansing of the District should be maintained. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the Public Cleansing Staff for their co-operation in this matter.

The Table given below gives details of the number of refuse receptacles emptied during the year, together with the number of loads and their estimated weight.

Receptacles	No. Emptied	No. of Loads	Estimated Weight
Dustbins, etc.	122,382	1800	4860 0 0
Privies	356	108	184 10 0
Trade Refuse		153	76 10 0
	122,738	2061	5121 0 0

It is pleasing to be able to report again that the labour position was able to be maintained, temporary labour having to be employed only during the holiday period.

As the housing programme develops, so will the work of the Public Cleansing Staff continue to increase. Up to the present time, however, it has not been found necessary to increase the staff employed on this most essential work, but, as more houses are completed and occupied, so will the necessity of increasing staff become more necessary if the regular weekly cleansing of the District is to be maintained. On this matter, I feel that after attaining a weekly cleansing of the District, it would be a great pity should a less frequent cleansing have to be resorted to.

I think it is true to say that at last workmen engaged on this service, which must be regarded as an essential integral part of environmental hygiene, do not suffer from the stigma which attached to such work in the past when the vast majority of the work was the cleansing of privies.

COSTING

House and Trade Refuse	Collection	Disposal	Totals
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wages	1766 12 6	418 0 1	2184 12 7
Petrol and Oil	106 18 9	— — —	106 18 9
Spares, repairs, etc.	18 6 6	11 15 3	30 1 9
Hired Transport	21 0 0	— — —	21 0 0
TOTALS—EXCLUDING General Administrative Charges and Depreciation	1912 17 9	429 15 4	2342 13 1
Cost per ton	7 5	1 8	9 1
General Administrative Charges and Depreciation	271 15 5	25 0 6	296 15 11
Total Cost INCLUDING General Administrative Charges and Depreciation	2184 13 2	454 15 10	2639 9 0
Cost per ton	8 6	1 9	10 3

Estimated Population (Mid-summer 1951—Registrar General's Figure)								8,081
No. of houses or premises in the District								2,630
Rateable Value of the District								£28,626
Product of Id. Rate								£103
Total Rates in the £								22/-

							T.	C.	Q.
Total Tonnage Collected								5121	0 0
Output of Refuse per 1,000 population per annum								640	0 0
Output of Refuse per 1,000 population per day								1 15	0
Average length of haul									1 mile

Based on the estimated weight, the weight of house refuse collected per 1,000 population per day was equal to 34½cwts. This figure again shows a slight increase (2 qrs.) over that for the year 1950/51, and is due to more houses coming into full occupation. The quality of "home" coal was maintained throughout the year, and the proportion of shale contained in such coal continues at a lower level than was the case a short time ago. I continue to be of the opinion that this figure is high. Having in mind the fact that the great majority of householders in the District are in receipt of home coal, although the amount of residual shale is less, and despite the fact that the quantity of concessionary coal is slightly less than it was a year or two ago, the quantity of concessionary coal is still considerably higher than is allowed to other houses, and, as a result, economy in the use of solid fuel has not to be exercised as is the case where supplies of such fuel are limited.

It is with regret that I have to report that the amount of combustible material present in house refuse continues at a very high level, and, as a result, much material is discarded and lost.

More applications were received during the year for permission to screen cinders, etc., from the Tip for use in the heating of greenhouses, etc. Owing to the increasing numbers of persons seeking such facilities, the whole matter was examined, and because of the responsibility of the Council in the event of accidents, the scheme was abandoned, and permits granted in previous years were withdrawn.

In calculating the cost per ton, no allowance is made for income from the sale of various classes of salvage. Income from this source during the year amounted to £615/0/2 of which details and further information is given in that part of the Report dealing with Salvage. This income reduces the cost per ton (collection and disposal) to 7/10d.—a reduction of 2/5d. per ton.

The cost of the Public Cleansing Service, expressed as Cost Per Ton (Collection and Disposal) shows a slight increase during the year, 10/3d. for the year 1951/52 as against 10/1d. for the year 1950/51. This increase is due entirely to wage increases and increases in the cost of petrol, etc.

In spite of this slight increase, however, I am of the opinion that costs in this District will compare very favourably with those of other Districts in this Area.

SALVAGE

As in previous years, the collection of various classes of Salvage continued to be an integral part of the Public Cleansing Service.

The revival in the market which became apparent towards the end of 1950, was maintained throughout the year under review. Income from the sale of salvaged materials during the year rose to £615/0/2 as compared with £326/13/3 during the Financial Year 1950/51. The increase was due almost entirely to enhanced prices. Income from this source, as has already been stated, resulted in a considerable reduction in the cost of the Public Cleansing Service expressed as Cost Per Ton.

The quantity of rags again fell, but it was still possible to see itinerant rag collectors leaving the District almost daily with very considerable quantities of such material. Although it was suspected on several occasions that toys had been exchanged for rags, extensive checks did not result in offenders being caught. As has been mentioned in previous reports, penalties for such offences, in my opinion, are insufficient to act as any real deterrent and it is apparent from the reports of prosecutions in various places, that the same people have been prosecuted by various Local Authorities, in some instances more than once.

The mutual arrangements between householders and pig and poultry keepers whereby kitchen waste was collected continued throughout the year. The standard of pigs slaughtered by self-suppliers continued to reach a high level, and it is apparent that considerable quantities of this material must have been made available to supplement rationed feeding-stuffs otherwise such a standard could not possibly have been reached.

The weights and values of the various classes of Salvage disposed of during the year are shown in the following Table :—

SALVAGE STATISTICS

Year ended March, 1952

Material	Weight				Value		
	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	44	11	3	0	587	7	0
Rags	16	1	7		18	8	11
Bones	1	0	0		5	9	
Ferrous Metals	3	8	0	0	8	18	6
	48	17	0	7	615	0	2

DISINFECTION OF HOUSES AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As in previous years, disinfection was carried out at all houses where cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, and at other premises where requests were received for disinfection. Several requests were received during the year for houses to be disinfected after persons notified as suffering from Tuberculosis had stayed. Applications were also received for disinfection after deaths certified as due to Cancer.

It is cause for satisfaction when householders will seek the help of the Department in such instances, and disinfection will always be carried out when application for such service is made by householders.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

(1) Number and Nature of Inspections

The following Table gives particulars of Inspections during the year :—

Nature of Inspection	No. of Visits Paid
Housing	
Housing and Public Health Acts	2481
Verminous Premises	135
Miscellaneous Housing	180
Works in Progress	271

Meat and Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses	42
Shops and Stalls	22
Other Premises	7
Butchers	72
Fishmongers and Poulterers	18
Grocers	87
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	8
Ice-Cream Premises	79
Food Preparing Premises	80
Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts	12
Ice-Cream Samples	54
T.B. Milk Samples	5
Water Samples	6
Visits re Codes of Hygiene	82
Survey of Food Premises	79
Miscellaneous Food Visits	152

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries and Disinfection	21
Miscellaneous	15

General Sanitation

Drainage	190
Stables and Piggeries	20
Fried Fish Shops	27
Barnsley Canal	55
Factories	50
Crickets	54
Bakehouses	12
Public Conveniences	30
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	4
Refuse Collection	137
Refuse Disposal	62
Rats and Mice	866
Smoke Observations	4
Schools	6
Shops	4
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	416
Interviews	473
Salvage	130
Petrol	7
Civil Defence	55

Total Number of Visits 6377

(2) Complaints Received

During the year 238 complaints were received, details of which are as shown below :—

Nature of Complaint	No. Received
Choked or defective drains	84
General Dilapidations	12
Defective sink	3
Defective range	3
Defective floor	3
Defective oven	2
Dampness	5
Suspected subsidence	4
Defective eaves gutters	2
Defective roof	3
Defective W.C. Service Pipe	13
Defective W.C. Compartment	3
Defective W.C. Flushing Cistern	5
Defective vent shaft	1
Defective W.C. Pedestal	1
Defective W.C. Seat	1
Defective sink waste pipe	2
Defective cold water supply tank	1
Overcrowding and Bad Housing Conditions	19
Defective Inspection Cover	3
Rats	16
Mice	5
Cockroaches	15
Bugs	10
Crickets	3
Ants	1
Silver Fish	2
Snails	2
Nuisances—Water	9
Sewage in cellar	1
Pigs	1
Poultry	1
Smoke	2

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FACTORIES ACT, 1937

No further premises were included in the Register during the year, but the premises of Messrs. A. Valentine Stubbs Ltd., were enlarged.

Premises already included in the Register were inspected during the year, 50 inspections being made for the purpose.

No complaints of uncleanness were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year, and it is gratifying to be able to report again that no case of uncleanness was found during routine inspections.

In one instance, factory premises were found to have insufficient sanitary convenience, but this state of affairs was remedied following informal action.

No notifications under the provisions of Sections 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937 (Outworkers) was received during the year.

The following Tables are extracts from the Form of Return submitted to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. **Inspections** for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	50	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	11	50	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT

As in previous years, no nuisance from smoke arising in the District was noted during the year, but considerable nuisance from smoke and grit from outside the District again rose from one of the stacks at the Monckton Colliery Unit and the Coking Plant. The matter was again referred to the Hemsworth Rural District Council. Whether the nuisance arises purely from the use of very inferior fuel, whether there is inefficient stoking and whether the steam raising plant is becoming defective, I am unable to say, but as a result of informal approaches in various quarters, I understand that as part of the programme of the National Coal Board, the question of improvement to steam raising plant is a matter which is receiving considerable attention. So far as grit nuisance is concerned, I assume that this arises from the quenching of coke.

So far as Smoke Nuisances are concerned, whilst there are no industrial stacks in the District likely to give rise to smoke nuisance, industrial stacks, burning colliery spoil banks and by-product plants on all sides of the District, result in smoke drifting over the District according to the direction of the prevailing wind. I would stress, however, that it would be unfair to place the whole of the blame for nuisance on these sources, the domestic chimney being very far from blameless in this matter. It is computed that about half the pollution of the atmosphere by smoke arises from this source and it must be admitted that there are a considerable number of old type solid fuel appliances in use in the District which cannot be regarded as efficient and which, as a result, can only result in continuing quantities of impurities being poured into the atmosphere. Although some such appliances were replaced by modern appliances during the year, with the shortage of ferrous metals, to effect replacement of such appliances can only be hoped for as a long term policy. At the same time, the fitting and use of such appliances would have a very beneficial effect on the solid fuel position as well as giving much higher efficiency in the consumption of such fuel. Here again, the position is by no means easy having in mind the question of concessionary coal to householders employed in and about collieries.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

During the year, Bye-laws under the provisions of Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were adopted. In a preliminary survey of the District, it was found that the following food premises existed :—

Butchers	.....	12
Bakehouses	.....	4
Cafes, canteens, etc. (including schools)	.....	5
Fried Fish Shops	.....	11
Mobile Wet Fish Shops	.....	1
Fruit Shops	.....	8
Grocers and General Shops	.....	46
Licensed Premises (including Clubs and Off Beer Licenses)	.....	14
		<hr/> 101 <hr/>

The following premises are registered under the provisions of Section 14(2) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Premises used for the preparation of manufacture of preserved food, etc.	.....	8
Manufacture and Sale of Ice-Cream	.....	2
Storage of Ice-Cream	.....	1
Sale of Ice-Cream	.....	17
		<hr/>
Total number of premises registered		28
		<hr/>

The various Registered Premises were inspected from time to time during the year and were found to be in a generally satisfactory condition.

Codes of Hygiene for the various types of food premises were drawn up, and these were issued to shop-keepers, together with a copy of the Bye-laws just before the end of the year.

H O U S I N G

During the year 1951, 684 houses were inspected for defects within the meaning of the Public Health and Housing Acts, 2424 visits being made for the purpose.

Rather more work of repairing and reconditioning existing properties was apparent during the year under review, but the continuing shortages of both building labour and materials limited the amount of such work which could be undertaken. More properties were painted externally during the year, and the bright new colours relieved to a considerable extent the drabness which had become almost universal immediately after the recent War. With the shortages of timber, painting of existing woodwork to houses will not only improve its appearance, but will also help to preserve it, provided always that such work is undertaken before serious deterioration of the timber has become apparent.

Without wishing to give any impression of bias, it must again be said that the stabilising of the rents of privately owned properties at their pre-war level is having an ever increasing braking effect on the amount of repair and re-conditioning which can be carried out, having in mind, always, that building costs, both of labour and materials, have increased very considerably during recent years. At the same time, however, it is very apparent that the question of Rent Control is not a matter for easy settlement, and, even should private landlords be allowed to charge an increased rent for the cost of repairs, it would appear only fair that some conditional clause should operate such as re-pointing of fabric, remedying of dampness, etc., before such increased rent should be charged. Even if such a scheme were contemplated, the availability of building labour and materials would prove a handicap of no mean proportions to those property owners desirous of bringing their properties back to standard.

As in previous years, the need for certificates to enable contractors to obtain materials in short supply, and this applied particularly to timber, resulted again in information relative to works of repair and re-conditioning carried out other than as a result of notices from this Department, coming to the notice of the Department more than would have been the case under normal circumstances.

More evidence of houses showing damage as a result of mining subsidence became apparent during the year. When such occurrences were noticed, the attention of owners was drawn to the matter. In one instance, No. 32 The Green, Royston, evidences of such damage gave cause for some alarm and direct approach was made to the National Coal Board, and, as a result, immediate steps were taken by the National Coal Board to check further damage. As in previous years, houses suspected of showing damage by subsidence were kept under observation.

19 cases of alleged overcrowding and/or bad housing conditions were complained of during the year. This compares with 18 cases in 1950. All cases were investigated and reported to the Health Committee. During the year, 7 cases which had been reported to the Council were relieved. It would appear that there are still a considerable number of cases where more than one family occupy one house, and even after the considerable progress of providing new houses, the overall position does not appear to have improved much. The high cost of providing new houses is, automatically, reflected in the rent charged for such houses, and one cannot help but wonder whether such rents would be beyond the means of possible tenants—particularly newly married couples.

On the question of moral overcrowding, it is doubtful whether any more can be said than has been said in previous Reports. There can be no doubt that many parents are extremely worried where facilities do not exist for proper separation of the sexes, and, in cottage property providing only two rooms on the ground floor and two bedrooms, adequate facilities do not exist to allow of such separation.

The question of the unfit, insanitary house continues to be an ever increasing and difficult problem. The number of houses reaching the stage where formal action under the Housing Act would normally have been put into operation increases each year. As has been said in previous Reports, the effect of living in such houses may not be apparent at the moment, but one cannot help but wonder what effects will become apparent at a later date, particularly so far as younger children are concerned.

It must be admitted that such houses, with all their drawbacks, do at least provide shelter and allow families to occupy their own homes rather than have to share their homes with other families, but, until the Housing Programme as a whole has progressed some considerable way, I cannot see much hope of intensive action being taken for the demolition of unfit houses. Where such houses become structurally dangerous, then no alternative presents itself. Two such cases occurred during the year under review in the houses known as 225 and 227 Station Road, Royston. The fabric of one of these houses showed very serious deterioration, the tenant of the house in question was granted the tenancy of a new Council House, the tenant of the adjoining house terminated her tenancy, and an approach was made to the owner, informally, to ascertain what steps were anticipated so far as the houses were concerned. The houses were not re-let, but at the end of the year, demolition had not been started.

Where houses have begun to show signs of serious decay, owners are, quite naturally, loath to spend large sums of money in an effort to recondition their property, particularly having in mind that the cost of such works could only be high and no-one can give a close estimate of the probable continuing life of such houses. Efforts to keep the houses weatherproof frequently is the only reasonable course to follow, and, as a result, the general condition of the houses becomes progressively worse, minor repairs are totally inadequate, the economic factor as reflected in the rent paid for the houses has an adverse effect on the whole position, but whether amendment of the Law in this respect, as mentioned earlier in this Report, would have the results hoped for, can, at the moment, only remain as a matter for conjecture.

Until more new houses are completed and occupied to relieve the present widespread lack of housing accommodation, it would appear impossible to deal with the question of the insanitary house satisfactorily. The increase in the amount able to be spent each year on housing repairs will, gradually, improve the position, but this can only be a comparatively slow process, again depending upon the labour and materials being available to carry out works.

The application for an Improvement Grant under the provisions of Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, which was still under discussion at the end of 1950, was finally turned down during 1951.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This matter continued during the year to receive a considerable amount of attention. As has already been stated earlier in this Report, Bye-laws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were confirmed during the year and were issued to foodshops at the end of the year. Full inspections of all food premises will be carried out gradually and will be reported upon where the necessity arises.

School kitchens were visited during the year, but on no occasion was any action found to be necessary.

Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

At the end of the year, two supplementary licences for the sale of milk under the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" remained in force in the District.

Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949

At the end of the year, the following Supplementary Licences remained in force :—

Milk to be sold under the Special Designation	
"Sterilised"	2
Milk to be sold under the Special Designation	
"Pasteurised"	3

During the year, notification was received from the Medical Officer of Health for Barnsley that a sample of milk obtained within the Borough for bacteriological examination was submitted also for biological examination and was found to be tuberculous. Part of the milk from the farm concerned was retailed in this District. Together with the Medical Officer of Health, a visit was paid to the farm in question

and the farmer notified that until his herd was declared free from infection, all milk must be sent to premises for heat treatment before sale. The farmer in question co-operated to the full and no further evidence of tuberculous milk from his herd was found.

ICE CREAM

All premises in the District registered under the provisions of Section 14(2) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation, storage or sale of ice cream were kept under regular supervision during the year, 79 visits being made for the purpose.

Sampling of ice cream continued throughout the year, 54 visits being made for this purpose.

Once again, trouble was experienced at one manufacturing premises, but the insistence on a regular cleansing and sterilising routine eventually resulted in the production of satisfactory samples bacteriologically.

The following Table shows the results of the bacteriological examinations of samples of ice cream obtained during the year:—

Provisional Grade	No. of Samples
I	27
II	2
III	3
IV	1
	—
	33
	—

4 Iced lollies were also submitted for bacteriological examination and in each instance were reported upon as satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION

As in previous years, meat for sale in the various butchers' shops in the District was slaughtered at the Barnsley Abattoir and delivered to retail shops by motor vehicle.

The all metal, readily cleansed, insulated motor vehicles put into use for the delivery of meat from the Abattoir to retail shops continued in use throughout the year, but unsatisfactory practices, such as plucks being placed inside the carcasses of freshly killed food animals continued and is to be deplored. At the same time, the use of such vehicles

should reduce contamination of meat during transit to a minimum, but on several occasions it was found that meat inspected at the time of delivery or shortly afterwards showed evidence of quite serious contamination. When such instances did occur, they were brought to the notice of the abattoir authorities.

In one instance, pork supplied to one shop for manufacturing purposes was found to be unfit for food. This was returned to the Abattoir and was replaced so that the amount of meat coming into the District did not suffer in any way.

The number of pigs slaughtered for home consumption by self-suppliers of meat showed a further reduction during the year under review. The carcasses of 46 such pigs were inspected during the year. It is of great interest and satisfaction to be able to report that there was no evidence of disease in any of the carcasses dressed under normal procedure for curing.

There were two instances of Emergency Slaughtering during the year. In both cases, arrangements were able to be made for the carcasses to be sent to the Abattoir at Barnsley as casualties. In one instance, the carcass was accepted, but in the other instance where I advised immediate slaughter by reason of accidental injury, the carcass and all organs were condemned.

The system whereby circular letters were sent out with licences to slaughter by the local Food Executive Officer continued during the year and continued to receive the support of pig-keepers. The premises recognised in previous years for the dressing of pigs continued to be so recognised and almost all pigs slaughtered were dressed in these premises.

Judging by the number of pigs examined, however, it appears reasonable to assume that more pigs were sent to Government Receiving Centres.

As in previous years, the standard of pigs slaughtered maintained the high standard previously attained and reflect great credit on persons keeping pigs. The arrangement between householders and pig and poultry keepers for the collection of kitchen scraps continued, and, judging by the standard of the pigs inspected, much good work must have been done in this respect. I am firmly of the opinion that pig keepers appreciate the service afforded them in having their pigs inspected and are most anxious to avail themselves of this service. This can only continue to be most gratifying.

OTHER FOODS

Details of other foodstuffs found to be unsound and which were voluntarily surrendered are as shown below:—

Tinned Foodstuffs				No. of Tins	
Tomatoes	.....	.....	.....	22 x 2lbs.	3ozs.
				28 x 2lbs.	4ozs.
				7 x	15ozs.
				5 x	8ozs.
				15 x A1	
Peas	.....	.....	.....	1 x A2	
Unsweetened Milk	.....	.....	.....	29 x 2 pints	
				2 x 1 pint	
Cherries	.....	.....	.....	2 x A1	
Strawberries	.....	.....	.....	1 x	15ozs.
Beans	.....	.....	.....	1 x A1	
Plums	.....	.....	.....	3 x A2	
				1 x 1lb.	4ozs.
Prunes	.....	.....	.....	9 x	4½ozs.
Pears	.....	.....	.....	4 x 1lb.	14ozs.
Vegetables	.....	.....	.....	1 x A2	
				7 x 1lb.	3ozs.
				10 x	4½ozs.
Sardines	.....	.....	.....	1 Small Tin	
Crab	.....	.....	.....	1 x	7ozs.
Pilchards	.....	.....	.....	2 x	8ozs.
Luncheon Meat	.....	.....	.....	3 x	12ozs.
				13 x 2lbs.	
French Ham	.....	.....	.....	2 x	12ozs.
Cooked Ham	.....	.....	.....	44lbs.	2ozs.
Luncheon Meat with Cereals				1 x	12ozs.
Gammon Ham	.....	.....	.....	14lbs.	12ozs.
Total				168	tins
Sausages	.....	.....	.....	4lbs.	
Cheese Spread	.....	.....	.....	124 x 4oz.	cartons
Jam	.....	.....	.....	1 x 1lb.	jar

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year, the Council's systematic treatment of infestations of rats and mice in the District continued.

As in previous years, two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out, following a 10% test of sewer manholes. It is again pleasing to be able to report that sewer infestation gave every indication of having been reduced very considerably. The number of "takes" recorded again fell and the black spot in the Pinfold Lane Area showed no signs of recurrence.

Complaints of both rats and mice were again received from the Secondary Modern Schools and the Junior Schools. Treatments were put in hand as quickly as possible, and at the end of the year, there was no apparent residual infestation.

Follow-up treatments continued throughout the year at the Council's Refuse Tip, Salvage Shed and Sewage Disposal Works. The kill was satisfactory, and at the end of the year, all these Local Authority Undertakings appeared to be free from infestation.

Private Properties continued to be treated under the Block Control Methods advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, where it was suspected that infestation affected more than the set of premises from which the original complaint was received. Shop premises were found, for the first time, to be infested, but informal approach to the various firms concerned resulted in requests being received for the treatment of premises, such service to be paid for. Co-operation was received from the firms concerned, necessary works of rat-proofing as recommended by the Department were accepted and re-infestation has not taken place.

The following Table is an extract from the Form of Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the year in question.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	5	2315	6	150	2476
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result	(a)	35	—	9	44
(a) of notification or (b) otherwise	(b)	125	7	61	342
III. Number of properties (under II) found	Major	—	—	—	5
to be infested by rats	Minor	8	—	4	12
IV. Number of properties (under II) found					
to be seriously infested by mice	—	6	—	2	8
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	10	14	—	6	30

It is pleasing to be able to report that in no instance was it found necessary to service notices for necessary works either of treatment or structural works to be carried out.

BARNSELEY CANAL

As reported in Annual Report for 1950, intimation had been received from the Docks and Inland Waterways Executive that they proposed applying to the Minister of Transport for a Warrant to abandon the canal.

This matter was revived at County Level and information was received that consultations between all interested Parties would be called to discuss the matter.

As in previous years, the level of the water in the canal fell, during the summer extensive weed growths became apparent, and flow of the water in the canal was imperceptible. The weed growths, with their attendant breeding of flies, were brought to the notice of the Executive and steps were taken to have such growths removed.

During the hot weather, it was noticed that children were again bathing in the canal. Because of this, samples of the water were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory in Wakefield. The results of the examinations of these samples are shown below, and these results were brought to the notice of the Docks and Inland Waterways Executive. As a result of the action taken, notices were posted up by the Executive advising people that the water was not fit for bathing in.

Results of the Bacteriological Examination of Samples of Water obtained from the Barnsley Canal

Sample No. 1—Obtained near Church Hill Bridge

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days,
37°C 14 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli B.coli type I
5 per 100 ml.

CL. welchii present in 50 ml.

No pathogenic organisms isolated.

Sample No. 2—Obtained near Griffiths Bridge

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days
37°C 1,800 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli B.coli type I
35 per 100 ml.

CL. welchii present in 10 ml.

No pathogenic organisms isolated.

Sample No. 3—Obtained at Whincover

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days
37°C 250 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli B.coli type I
130 per 100 ml.

Cl. welchii present in 10 ml.

No pathogenic organisms isolated.

Sample No. 4—Obtained at Whincover near Council's Refuse
Tip.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days
37°C 900 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli B.coli type I
600 per 100 ml.

Cl. welchii present in 10 ml.

No pathogenic organisms isolated.

Remarks—The water shows heavy faecal contamination whilst the presence of Cl. welchii indicates that the pollution is of long standing. Although the attempts to isolate pathogenic organisms were unsuccessful it does not necessarily mean that pathogenic organisms were not present. The presence of large numbers of faecal C. Coli type I and Cl. welchii is sufficient to render the water unsatisfactory for bathing purposes.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

As in previous years, the public urinals continued to be grossly mis-used and were a constant source of trouble. Malicious damage was done on more than one occasion, but it was not found possible to trace who had caused such damage.

During the year, the plans submitted to the Area Planning Officer for the provision of modern, up-to-date conveniences for both sexes, together with deemed planning permission, were received, and notification was received from the Salvation Army that they would object to the Council's proposals. After considerable correspondence, arrangements were able to be made to meet a representative of the Salvation Army to discuss the whole proposal, after which, subject to the Council agreeing to plant shrubs etc., to provide screening between the rear of the proposed building and the rear of the Salvation Army Citadel, the objection was offered to be withdrawn.

The urinal on Midland Road continued to become more and more dilapidated and also a public nuisance, and this convenience was most frequently mis-used.

SUPPLY OF DUSTBINS

This matter has been one causing great concern to Local Authorities throughout the Country for some time, but until the end of 1951, no serious trouble had been experienced by this Council in having defective dustbins renewed by the owners of property. Towards the end of the year, however, notification was received in respect of two blocks of property that in the event of Statutory Notices being served for the renewal of dustbins, appeals would be lodged against the requirements of such notices. The whole position was considered at great length, but after lengthy consideration, the Council felt that their previous practice of requiring owners to provide and maintain dustbins should continue. The outcome of the Appeals does not come within the period covered by this Report but will be included in a subsequent Report.

CIVIL DEFENCE

During the year under review, the Council agreed to accept delegated powers from the County Council so far as Civil Defence was concerned.

MORTUARY

No works were found to be necessary to the Mortuary Building during the year other than casual works of maintenance.

CONCLUSION

As will be seen from the foregoing Report, my Section of the Public Health Department again had a busy and varied year.

May I take this opportunity of again expressing to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, my sincere appreciation for their continuing support and unfailing encouragement during a busy year. I would like to thank the Medical Officer of Health for his continued support and the amicable working conditions which continue to exist between his office and mine.

During the year, the two pupil Sanitary Inspectors left me. Mr. Alan Foster took up a similar appointment with the Barnsley County Borough, whilst Mr. Wilfred Murray, having obtained his qualifying Certificate accepted the appointment of Additional Sanitary Inspector to the Saddleworth Urban District Council and took up his duties with that Authority in the second half of the year.

I am glad, also, of the opportunity of expressing my appreciation and thanks to my fellow Officials for the support and help which they have at all times afforded me in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE E. MILLAR,

Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

